

Just before Easter / apt April 8 / 1881.

Mining matters are still the principal topic of interest - Prospectors are busily at work & new claims are being taken up ^{daily} in the Northern Gold fields, & people are again looking to the West Coast more hopefully. ~~at Mt. Heemskirk in that district~~ The Montague the Cumberland & the claims at Mt. Heemskirk are being carefully prospected & from the latter especially great things are said to be expected. Attention also is being directed to the lodes of tin which occur in various localities, operations hitherto having been limited principally to alluvial workings. Even in the Southern part of the island prospectors find employment

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Gold has been found in small quantities at Port Cygnet & it is said also at Little Oyster Cove both situated betⁿ Hobart & the Huon River, while some sanguine individual lately gave out that he had discovered a good thing in a quartz reef at Risdon 6 or 8 miles from the Capital. A few days ago ~~also~~ some excitement was caused by the reported find of a rich reef somewhere near Lake St. Clair at the head waters of the Derwent, but further investigⁿ has ~~relegated that also to the~~ ~~relegated this also to the~~ ~~not confirmed the first glowing report~~ ~~relegated that also to the~~ long list of disappointed expectⁿs.

There is no lack of activity in pushing on mining enterprise & under its stimulus Lancaster is making rapid strides. Yet the state of things there is unhealthy & may easily end in disaster.

The Lion people are always speculative & they ^{now} have a severe attack of the mining fever. It is to be feared that the over speculation in mining scrip which has been going on there for some time, may have an injurious effect on the legitimate development of our gold fields.


There is no doubt that the success of ^{2 or 3} ~~such~~ ^{claims} companies has been sufficient to excite people's hopes. Thus

the last crushing of the Claim at ~~Five Mile Springs~~ Jeffrey (lately Five Mile Springs) gave an average of ^{one} tons, & the Tasmania

at Beaconsfield at their last crushing obtained ^{one} tons, still maintaining its position as the best reef ^{still the best reef claim} in the island. ~~But the~~ ^{But the} ~~claims~~ ^{claims} which are paying dividends can be counted on the fingers of one hand. But the few successful ones have started hosts of companies, floated simply on speculation, without any sufficient testings of the claims

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proposed to be worked, with
the probable result in the greater
number of cases of loss to all
concerned except the promoters
who generally manage to pocket
a considerable sum in cash
by the sale of to a too credulous
public of some claim untried
claim, which is supported by
its owners to contain a rich
vein. There have been several
cases of direct & deliberate
fraud, where the specimens
~~shown did not come from~~
the by salting claims, such
as the Loch Lomond Tin Co.,
which was exploded by Mr.
Mureau an experienced victim.

The press has not been wanting in its duty in raising its voice
against the recklessness which prevails.

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Miner who ~~prom~~ found that
there was no tin at all on the
sections taken up by the promoters,
the specimens shown having
been ~~imported~~ selected from
some more fortunate locality. ~~The press has done its duty well in~~ 
But the public are so eager
not to lose their chance of making
a fortune that no lessons will
teach them wisdom, or prevent
them from taking up shares
in projects ~~started~~ started on
terms in which the which
under the most favorable
circumstances secure the profits
to the promoters & all the
risks to by which the public
shareholders take all the risk
& the promoters all the profit.

The recent action for libel Hetcher
& Cotton has however had a
wholesome effect in drawing
attention to the ~~responsibility~~
~~of persons who~~ legal responsibility
~~of~~ of promoters for the accuracy
of the statements by which they
induce others to subscribe ^{to their projects} ~~for them~~.
Mr Cotton had ^{in a letter to the Mercury} denounced in
no measured terms the conduct
of the promoters of the Great
Extended Peiman Company
for putting forth a delusive
prospectus ^{roundly charged} ~~roundly~~ accused
them ^{with telling to him & others} ~~of swindling in selling~~
Shares which they knew to
be worthless. Thereupon one
of the directors brought an
action for libel agst his critic

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Mr Cotton however stoutly upheld
the truth of his statements & as
it appeared on the trial that
the prospectus was very inaccurate
& highly coloured, the jury
brought in a verdict for the
def't though they added a
rider acquitting the plff
of any dishonest intention.
The Judge took occasion to point out the
disgraceful proceedings
bribery at the Hunn election
in July June last has again been
brought prominently before the public.
It will be remembered that
at this election Mr. Solomon was
elected by a very narrow majority
over his opponent Mr. Fisher &
that he was afterwards unseated
by petition for bribery by his agent.

The evidence taken before the Committee showed most extensive corruption & the Govt was called upon to prosecute some of the more prominent offenders. On a fresh election taking place ~~Mr Solomon~~ the same candidate again contested the seat Mr. Solomon was again elected ~~as no proceedings were taken & the whole matter was it was~~ ^{sup} As no proceedings were taken at the time it was ^{generally} supposed that the matter was to be allowed to drop & therefore it was a surprise to most people when ^{3 of the} Mr. Solomon's ^{election} ~~most active~~ ^{agents} & good others who ^{had distinguished themselves before the Com.} were put upon their trial for bribery. However the juries did not seem to be anxious to make

of the accused examples, ^{one} was acquitted & in a second case the jury were unable to agree. In the 3rd case the evidence given by ^{Evans} the accused before the Com. was read & in this ^{had the merit of candour} ~~was not ambiguous~~ "2. Did you offer any votes money? A. Yes 2. What for? A. To vote for ~~Evans~~ Solomon. 2. Why did you not offer him more than £3. A. Because I did not have it on me, if I had had £10 I wd have given it to him." Yet the jury cd not for ^{some} a long time come to an agreement, & declined ^{accept} to ^{as evince another} consider Evans admissions before the Com, till the Judge informed them that they must do so, & it was only then after another half hours deliberation that they brought in a verdict of guilty. The judge inflicted a fine of £25, stating that he dealt thus

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lightly with the offender because
it was the first conviction under
the Act but in future any one convicted
would be imprisoned. The Jury
seem to have reflected what is
the popular feeling, that these men
were being made in concert
scapegoats, & that as more
prominent persons had not clean
hands in the matter of bribery,
the lesser offenders & instruments
were not worthy of much punishment
if of even of blame. But I fear
that many of the Constit. are
quite demoralised by the corruption
which has been going on unchecked
for years, ^{that a large number of electors find their property in it} & that while men who
ought to know better are inclined
to even justify palliate while
nominally condemning it are ready to
look at it & even abet it as a
necessity in a contested election ^{at least in self defence} if

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the wrong man is to be kept out
~~But~~ The Governor designate
Sir Geo Strahan is positively
to come after all, & will probably
relieve Sir Henry Sefton about
October. Sir Henry has been
making the most of his short term
of administration ^{it seems determined to learn as much} ~~of his acquaintance~~
^{thinks} ~~himself~~ ^{personally acquainted} with the best parts of
of the Colony with an energy
which not many of our Governors
exhibit, ~~& which speaks well~~
~~for~~ Sir Henry has not been
idle during his short term of
office but seems bent on
learning as much of the Colony
as possible, ~~visiting~~ exploring
out of the way districts ~~which~~
~~few of our~~ with an energy &
enthusiasm which few of our
Governors exhibit & which younger
men than he may admire.

He has visited the Gold Mines
 at Beaconsfield, the NW Coast
 the Mt Bischoff Tin Mines
 & other districts, & has done
 his investigations very thoroughly.
 Sir Henry has certainly made
 himself very popular during
 his short stay amongst us, ^{showing} ~~taking~~
 a lively interest in ^{every} ~~all~~ progressive
 taking a prominent part at
 the Royal Socy & expressing
 himself in public with a
^{vigorous &} straightforward common sense
~~which compares favourably with~~
~~many vice regal utterances to~~
~~which we are not always given~~
~~to our vice regal~~ The general
 feeling opinion is that we might
 do worse than have him
 here for the full orthodox years.

The English Bishop the Rt Rev
 O'Brien is expected to return
 from England with his family
 somewhere about August.

In spite of the mining
 business ^{if} generally not
 very brisk ^{The farmers have had hard times} & large amounts
 of capital are lying idle
 waiting for investment.
 In this respect we are only
 like our neighbours, but perhaps
 in our case it is partly
 attributable to the redemption
 of debentures held in the Colony,
 & their replacement by loans
 placed in the English Market.
 That the Colonies Securities
 stand well in the London

The Census returns are not
 of the Census which was taken on
 the night of the 3 April are not
 yet quite completed but will
 probably show an increase
 of from £13,000 to £14,000
 on the return of 1870 which
 was 99,328.
 Total shows an increase
 of 2026 having advanced
 from 19092 in 1870 to
 21,118 in the present year
 while Lancashire which
 in 1870 had only
 10,688 which
 now returns
 to 12,753 being
 an increase
 of 2065.
 Prison - one not guilty 29 April.
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 is shown by the high price
 brought by the last loan 4%
 which was floated at £99.11.9
 for £300,000
 more than the
 required amount by applied
 for.

~~The Census - The class~~
 The farmers have had
 bad times of it for the last
 two or three years, indeed
 they are decidedly worse off
 than any other class in
 the Community. Although
 prices have been low, rents
 continue high &

The Census.

The weather - early rains &
 good growth of grass for stock

Gold mining is active, several
claims are doing well. The
New Claim at Nine Mile Springs
last week got $\frac{1}{3}$ from

tons of quartz & the
output of gold ^{steadily} increases.
~~too~~ There is every prospect of
very considerable development.
There is also a considerable
revival in tin mining, the better
prices ruling having stimulated
production largely especially
on the eastern side of the island.

The Hop growers are likely to do well
this year, the crop is gathered &
is good & prices are remunerative
for the first time for some years.

~~The farmers are not happy the low
prices being an unpleasant drawback
to the good crops accompan~~

According to a little handbook
just pub^d ~~there are it appears~~
~~that there are~~ ^{more than} 250 mining Corps
in Tasmania at present, & fresh
prospectuses appear day by day.
Scrip is the great article of traffic.
Shares are the great topic of
Conversation. ^{if you are going} The Tas. ^{seem to} ^{mine} ~~have~~
developed a taste for spec^s.
which fully equals that of any
of their neighbours & ~~they will prob^{ly}~~
~~learn & many will~~ & as they
are comparatively new in mining
ex^{pe} it is not to be wondered at
if their ex^{pe} are somewhat
wonderful that if they have not
yet had the ex^{pe} which shows
& they have yet to learn by ex^{pe}
that be taught by ex^{pe} that there
is a reverse side to ~~but~~ they have
yet to buy their ex^{pe}. As I
mentioned in my last letter great
things were expected from the Royal
Tasman at Mr Cameron (Gladstone).

~~But the 4 gold fields are two of the~~
Coys have yet done more than
prospecting work & it will be long
before the permanent value of the
discoveries of the last few years
can be positively proved. The
~~Not Cameron~~ Gladstone ~~(The Cameron)~~
^{not justified}
gold field has ~~disappointed~~ the
extravagant expectations formed of the
the Royal Tasman's first crushing
giving $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz to the ton, a good yield
but ~~much~~ below disappointing to
those who were looking for a return
of from 5 to 13 oz. The yield at
Leifroy (Nine Mile Springs) is improving
~~this was the~~ & the whole line of the
Chum reef promises well.

The ~~Western~~ Northern gold fields
seem promise well the ~~left~~ the
yield at Leifroy (Nine Mile Springs)
cont. to increase improve & the
first crushing of the Royal Tasman
at Gladstone (~~Not Cameron~~) gave
fair results, $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz to the ton,

a fair result though disappointing
to those whose sanguine ^{views} expectations
led them to expect from 5 to 13 oz.

~~The Commr. who have been sitting~~
~~to make the award on the~~
The Commr. appointed to decide on
the conflicting claims to the £3000
reward offered ^{some time since} by parlt. for the
discovery of a payable gold field
have ^{after long investigation} made an award
in favour of Saml Richards who
^{in 1869} discovered the defroy goldfield
in 1869 then called known as him Hile Spring

In the S. the W. Coast is
at present the centre of int.
A little steamer the Amy has been
sent on to run to Macquarie
Harbour & the other little nooks
wh serve for harbours, such as
the Trial Boat Harbour near Heemskirk
^{encouraged by the} and a Coy has been formed to run
^{that promise of concessions from Govt.}
a line to Macq. Harbour the only
~~place~~ place on the W. side of the Cold

worthy of the name of a port,
though even it has only some 7
or 8 ft of water on the bar, &
to make a tramway thence ~~some~~
a distance of 14 miles, to Mt
Heemskirk where the Montagu,
Cumberland, Cliff & other ^{two} claims
~~have been opened. This ~~Co.~~ has obtained the promise of capital from gentlemen.~~
The difficulties
in the way of Con. are considerable
as besides the want of harbours
the Coast is stormy & dangerous
& almost unsurveyed. A great
number of sections have been passed
out abt Heemskirk & Coys formed
to work them, but although there
^{seems reason to believe that there are valuable}
~~the deposits there are likely to prove~~
^{in the district in the district}
~~valuable~~ it will be long before
any considerable yield of ore
can be expected looked for.
Even under the most favourable circes.

12 April / 80

H. E. Governor Meld left last
Monday for Sydney en route for
his new government, the Straits
Settlements. This is a well paid
appointment and a fitting reward
to Mr Meld for his long public
services. It is not yet known
who is to be his successor, but it is
not improbable that Sir Wm
Robinson ~~whom Mr Meld~~ the
present governor at the Straits
May ^{be appointed} ~~come~~ to Tasmania. In
the meantime the government
will be administered by the Chief
Justice, Sir Francis Smith.

~~Mr Meld's term of office has been
unsuccessful; he has had two important
Constitutional questions ^{have arisen} to engage
his attention & has been well
liked, though~~

The Chief Justice had a large share
in framing our constitution &
it is satisfactory to know that
in the event of a long interregnum
we shall have an Administrator
whose eminent ability & large
political experience render him
singularly competent to deal,
if the need should arise, with
the difficult constitutional questions
which are already looming ahead.

Mr. Held's term of office has
been an uneventful one, no
difficult points having arisen
which required his arbitration;
he has been personally liked,
though he has not been without his
share of the troubles that beset
a throne; even if the throne be
only a vice regal share.

It is unfortunate that his last
~~staying he will be glad to escape~~
~~days amongst us should have been marred~~
~~just now from the annoyance of the~~
~~St Hill scandal, in which the Governor~~
has come in for a large amount of very
unmerited abuse, his only fault
having been a good natured wish to
deal as leniently as possible
with a man who had received
many benefits at his hands but
had scandalously abused the
trust ~~which Mr. Held had~~ placed
in him, and who was base enough
to make the ~~lenient~~ forbearance
which had been yielded to his
own urgent entreaties into a
weapon to still further wound
his benefactor. It is certainly
calculated to make one take a pessimist
view of human nature to see ~~the way~~

how the Case has been taken up
in some quarters, with a contemptuous
disregard of justice, simply as
a means of discrediting political
opponents or gratifying personal
or sectarian dislike. From the
Southern press, unfortunately
represented by a single newspaper,
We held could not expect fair
play, as its animosity against
him is notorious, ~~therefore it is~~
~~not surprising that~~
~~it should have constituted~~
~~itself the Champion of Colonel~~
~~St Hill the delinquent Colonel.~~
~~Others have found in the case~~
~~a means of and party feeling~~
while the enemies of the Premier
have not been slow to seize the
opportunity to make political
capital out of the Case.

With many however the Governor's
unpardonable in in this as
in other matters has been his
religious creed. I believe ~~that~~
~~that~~ narrow bigotry to be the real
reason why many & those not
only of the most ignorant class
have been led to consider Col
St Hill as an illused individual.
That person has been ingenious
enough in appealing to this
religious prejudice, of all others
surely the most unreasoning, & has
sedulously represented himself
as the victim of a persecution
due to disappointed hopes of
proselytism. He has also tried,
unsuccessfully, to make it appear
that the W. held was willing to
condone the offence if saved from

pecuniary loss & has endeavoured
to damage the Governor & make
friends for himself by professing
to divulge the contents of confidential
despatches. The publication of
the correspondence connected with his
dismissal from the office of
Commandant of the Volunteer forces
has however put the facts before
the public, & from this it appears
clearly that if the Governor has
erred, it has been from motives
which do credit at least to his
goodness of heart, in allowing
his pity for the delinquent's family
so far to weigh with him as to
take a too lenient course instead
of ^{dealing} promptly & summarily with
him - Mr. Held's complete defence

lies in the fact that so soon
as ^{he became aware of the large} ~~the~~ deficiency in Col St Hill's
accounts, ~~was known~~, he
informed the Secretary of State
of the fact. ~~only requesting~~
~~that writing requesting that he~~
~~might~~ writing at the same time
the Col's long services as a
reason for dealing with him as
leniently as possible. It was
~~St Hill's subsequent conduct~~ the
necessity of clearing himself from
the slanders which were being
propagated, & the subsequent
conduct of the delinquent ^{attest} himself,
which forced W. H. H. to take
extreme measures, & abandon
the kind though possibly
somewhat weak course which
his good nature had prompted.